

Spark Gap

Vol. 29, Issue 3, March 2012 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for twenty-eight Years*

On Our MARC...

The events of March 2, 2012 will be etched in our minds for many years to come, as the day when the fierce forces of nature were unleashed against southern Indiana. Precious lives were lost, injuries sustained, and the towns of Henryville and Marysville virtually destroyed. And yet, for as bad as it was, there is an acknowledgment that it could have been much worse. In the days since, the stories of warning, preparedness, definitive action, and courage have been told. The swift actions of school administrators, bus drivers, shop owners, parents, and neighbors saved lives.

As amateur radio operators, many of us keep a "go-bag" packed with essential gear, so that we can respond at a moment's notice to assist others in times of emergency. My question to all of us is, "Are we equally prepared to care for ourselves and those close to us, should the unthinkable come our way?" The staff at FEMA recommends that we have a disaster kit with enough food and water to last three days, for each person in our household, along with a first-aid kit and other supplies. To see the entire list, you can go to www.ready.gov and select "Build A Kit." Equally important is the need to have a plan of action that everyone is aware of and that has been practiced. Again, good information is available at ready.gov. I hope that you will join me in reviewing their suggestions and preparing accordingly.

March 18th -24th is Severe Weather Preparedness Week in Indiana. As is tradition, on Wednesday, March 21st there will be two weather siren tests. At both the morning and evening soundings, we will conduct weather test nets on the WA9RDF repeater. Please listen for the familiar "CQ Net" and check in with us.

Bob - KC9NJM

President

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Hello folks,

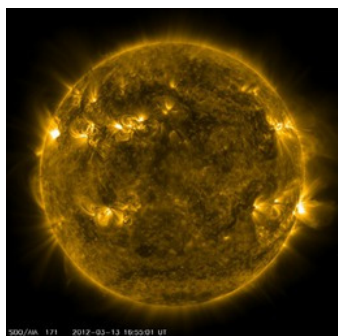
Our March program is a "Back to Basics" tutorial on how to easily program your HT or mobile radio using manufacturer software. All I have to show is Kenwood D700A or D7A radios. I know some have the FT60. If you possess software for other radios let me know. I want to show our new hams how to select and understand the features on the radio. It may even help some of the old people who may have forgotten how to program their radios.

If you can put it on a thumb drive we can share the laptop. I think this will be a good refresher course for those forgotten features we once knew by heart. I think it will be timely with tornado season blowing through Indiana.

Again, please let me know what you can bring so we can show everyone "How to do it". If we have time I'd like to give a short demo on HT texting with the D7A. I could use some help from Dave and Chris on this.

Thanks and 73's

Jack w8ish



March 13, 2012

OUR ACTIVE SUN

This has been quite a week for dramatic solar activity. The average daily sunspot number was up nearly 26 points to 69.4, while the average daily solar flux rose nearly 17 points to 121.9 for the period March 1-7. Sunspot numbers for March 1-7 were 24, 24, 52, 70, 105, 109 and 102, with a mean of 69.4. The 10.7 cm flux was 103.4, 108.2, 116.4, 120.1, 131.6, 138.1 and 135.7, with a mean of 121.9. The estimated planetary A indices were 14, 10, 8, 12, 8, 8 and 44, with a mean of 14.9. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 12, 10, 8, 10, 11, 10 and 33, with a mean of 13.4.

The latest forecast has solar flux at 140 on March 9, 135 on March 10-13, 130 on March 14, 125 on March 15-17, then 120, 115, 115, 110, 110 on March 18-22, then back down to 105 on March 23-25. The predicted planetary A index for March 9-13 is 27, 12, 10, 10 and 12, then 5 on March 14-16, then 12, 15, 10, and 8 on March 17-20, and 5 on March 21-27.

A series of coronal mass ejections emerged from a very large sunspot group (1429), and a large one produced a shockwave that hit the ACE spacecraft at 1045 UTC Thursday. Early today (Friday morning), another CME hit Earth, and geomagnetic activity is still high, with the planetary K index reaching 7.

..... excerpts from K7RA ARRL 3/09/2012

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+Jerry J. Schantz, W9JJS, SK

The Mid-State ARC mourns the loss of Jerry Schantz, W9JJS. Jerry lost his four year battle with Leukemia on February 22, 2012. According his family he succumbed to complications connected to his long fight with Leukemia. Long time friend and church member Brenda Haler, KC9EBL says, "Jerry was a strong Christian and a devoted family man. While he had no children of his own, he happily took on the role of Dad to his two stepsons and Grandfather to their children." Brenda says, "he considered them his family. He was a great friend and mentor to many and will truly be missed."

Jerry was first licensed as KB9ZCJ in April of 2001. He later upgraded his license and took on the vanity

call sign of W9JJS to reflect his initials and love of amateur radio. Jerry served as MARC president for two terms in 2003 and 2004. His greatest legacy to the club was obtaining the not-for-profit tax status of 501c3. That change has allowed the club to profit from equipment donations made in honor of club Silent Keys.

Many club members know Jerry was a great barbeque chef. He showed his talents each September flipping burgers and brats at the club picnic. At the age of 58, Jerry Schantz, W9JJS, is a Silent Key.



Jerry flipping burgers with Ernest at a club picnic.

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MARC hams take on Super Challenge:

Two weeks after the 46th Super Bowl in at Lucas Oil Stadium, club members Rhonda Curtis, WS9H and Bruce Tisdale, K9ICP were still talking about their super experience as frequency coordinators for the big game. During the February club meeting Rhonda and Bruce talked about their experience helping to coordinate radio frequencies used by radio and TV stations from around the world. Steve Curtis, ND9C assisted with Fox Hunting illegal frequencies in and around the stadium.

From mic checks to Manning to Madonna to the man on the street the airwaves around downtown Indianapolis were full of frequencies for the week leading up to and through Super Bowl 46. According to officials over 3500 hundred transmitters had to be checked for frequency compliance and tagged.

Keeping interference to a minimum is the job of the Super Bowl Frequency Coordination Committee. It is a team of 46 six, including 17 Amateur Radio operators from central Indiana. Their mission was to log, tag and tune all wireless transmitters so there was no interference. Bruce said it was the first time he had worked with a spectrum analyzer.

Their credentials allowed them all access to the stadium and support tents and trailers around the event.

Rhonda got even closer to the public safety command center when she got assigned to the Amateur Radio equipment in the on site command post.

As Super Bowl Sunday approached the job of preventing interference became a super task. The Indianapolis Super Bowl village, Lucas Oil Stadium and major hotels are located in a one mile square area. According to one volunteer, that is a lot of RF in a small area.

According to organizers the area of frequency control was expanded on game day stretching out about 30 miles into the suburbs of central Indiana. The bottom line for all this effort was to make sure the radio transmitters to each quarterback on the field was interference free throughout Super Bowl 46. Everyone agreed that it will be a super memory they will cherish forever. -w8ish



Rhonda WS9H and Bruce K9ICP talk about their experience as frequency coordinators during Super Bowl 46.

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OOPS ----->

In the last issue of the Spark Gap (February 2012) an error was made in the list of new HAMS and license upgrades, Christian KC9VGQ received his Technician Class license in February One Day Class. The Ed.



2012 Storm Spotters Class



You may call it perfect timing but this year's "Storm Spotters Class" was just ahead of some severe storms that produced large hail, strong straight line winds and tornadoes. The class was conducted on March 1st by Dave Tucek of the Indianapolis National Weather Service. There were twenty-five plus in attendance for the class. Most of the class consisted of HAMS and some brought family members with them. The presentation was very interesting and many examples of storms, cloud formations and what to look for as well as how to make a report to NWS when needed was explained.

Little did we know that the next day would bring a series of deadly tornadoes just to the south of Johnson County. It makes sense to have your weather radio ready to go and your HT handy with an extra charged battery pack for situations like this. We should always be ready to be of service to our county and the Central Indiana SkyWarn network that assists the National Weather Service during times of Severe Storms watches and warnings. Please tune your radio to the 146.970 (pl 77.0) when there are severe storm watches and warnings.

The MARC repeater 146.835 MHz (pl 141.5) is the official SkyWarn repeater for Johnson County.

.... Ed.

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ARES/RACES

It is that time of year again to update your ARES/RACES information. They need to know if you have had any upgrades to your amateur license, changes in modes of operation, any new equipment. Please also let us know about changes to your home address or phone numbers and email address.

ARES/RACES need this information so we can maintain good contact with you as a volunteer and member of the team.

Contact: Bob N9SIU at n9siu@yahoo.com and report any changes.

March 2012

17 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

April 2012

21 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

May 2012

19 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

2012 Indiana Hamfests

03/03/12	Dugger Hamfest , Dugger Community Building, South Hicum Street (just off State Road 54) Dugger, IN 47848, http://www.kc9ak.org/hamfest.html
March 10	Terre Haute Hamfest , Indiana State University Dede Activity Center, Terre Haute IN, http://w9uuu.org/
March 31	Columbus Amateur Radio Club Hamfest , Community Building in Columbus, Indiana http://www.carcnet.org/
April 21	North Central Indiana Hamfest , Miami County 4-H Fairground, Miami County Road 200 North & Mexico Road, Peru IN http://www.nci-hamfest.net/
May 12	South Bend Indiana Hamfest , Elks Club, 3535 E. McKinley Avenue, South Bend, IN http://www.w9ab.org/
July 14	Indianapolis Hamfest , Camp Sertoma, Indianapolis, http://www.indyhamfest.com
Oct. 6	Hoosier Hills Hamfest , Lawrence County 4H Fairgrounds, 11261 US Hwy 50 West., Bedford , http://www.w9qyq.org/
Nov. 17-18	Indiana State Convention, Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo , Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com

Dayton Hamvention® 2012

May 18-20 2012

MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome, you do not have to be a HAM to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

WA9RDF

Repeater

146.835/

146.235 MHz

151.4 Hz PL Tone

Club Officers:

President: Robert Jones – KC9NJM

Vice President: Dave Daily – KB9LOT

Secretary: Bruce Tisdale – K9ICP

Treasurer: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG

Repeater Trustee: Jay Chrismon – AA9YP

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 836

Franklin, Indiana

46131

Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd of the month

